



Par for the Course

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Golf balls for troops



Major Brian Burns

If you wish to hit golf balls on a Baghdad golf range you won't be able to collect many of them without either dodging sniper bullets or disturbing unexploded ordnance. That's why Greendale's players are asked to throw old golf balls in a hamper for transport to Green Zone and its practice range. (continued)

Melissa Allen, who plays Greendale every couple of weeks, introduced management to the project. She in turn learned of it from a golfing partner, **Rob**

Theriaque, golf coach at Gonzaga High School.

Theriaque says he has just more than 16,800 balls waiting to be shipped to Baghdad this fall. So far, Ms Allen has brought him more than 2,000 from Greendale and she estimated she had perhaps as many more ready to add to that number. Each bin she collects from Greendale holds about 1,200 balls. She said she's been playing golf about four years and found about 300 in various places in her apartment that went to the cause.

Recently one of those Greendale players contributing used golf balls was Air Force **Maj. Brian Burns** who flies F-16s. He's flown over Iraq and Kuwait. The major is from New Jersey.

Easy-parking prizes for club champions

Winners of the four brackets for the Greendale Club Championship on Oct. 6 will be awarded reserved parking spaces for a year.

Three additional brackets are new this year plus the reservation of parking for those winners. For the past two years, the designated parking has been the main recognition of the club champion.

In addition to the men's flight, the traditional championship, there will be 18-hole competitions for

ladies, seniors (55 and older) and super-seniors (65 and up). Twelve registrants are necessary to schedule a super-seniors flight.

Red ratings official

Greendale is tougher than it was considered to be earlier, especially from the red tee markers, and that's official.

Its course and slope ratings, higher than before, have been certified by the Virginia State Golf Association, which makes the official findings in those categories for the United States Golf Association. Also, Greendale measures longer than previously.

Ratings for the red or women's tee markers were the last to be certified. They show that the course rating has jumped to 71.6 from 70.4 and the slope rose to 123 from 115. From the reds, the course measures 5,511 yards, up 57 yards from 5,454.

Similarly, the certification shows increased course and slope ratings for the white and gold tee markers along with longer yardages. For the white, yardage moves up 65 yards from 5,954 to 6,019, the rating 69.0 to 74.7 and the slope from 126 to 132. For the gold, those figures are 5,685 to 5,781, 67.9 to 73.2, and 126 to 129.

Blue maker numbers remain the same: 6,353 yards, 70.9/128.

From all four tees, Greendale plays harder than

For a change of pace, try match play – with 2 or 4 golfers.

its par of 70. In addition, the new ratings show what Greendale players generally believe --- the back nine plays tougher. Here are the four figures of rating and slope with the front nine followed by the back nine:

White 36.6/38.1 130/134

Gold 36.1/37.1 128/130

Red 35.3/36.3 122/125

Course and slope ratings are determined by permission of the USGA and are used in connection with the USGA Handicap System.

"A USGA SLOPE Rating," the certification document says, "evaluates the relative playing difficulty of a course for players who are not scratch golfers. The lowest USGA SLOPE Rating is 55 and the highest is 155. A golf course of standard playing has a USGA SLOPE rating of 113."

A game of inches

It is often said that golf is a game of inches; that's really hundreds of thousands of inches.

A regulation golf ball is 1.68 inches in diameter. It is meant to fall into a hole 4.25 inches across and at least 4 inches deep.

But to get there, say on a 400 yard hole, the ball has to be propelled by club a minimum of 14,400 inches, should it be driven exactly in a straight line.

That's the equivalent of 8,571 balls sitting snugly against each other; again, in a straight line.

So, playing from Greendale's white tee markers -- 6,019 yards on the card -- means a golfer must move his or her ball -- at a minimum -- 216,684 inches or the

equivalent of 128,998 ball diameters.

Luckily, score isn't kept that way.

Rules of Golf

Here are some excerpts or paraphrased pointers from the USGA's series, Rule of the Week, which should be helpful to any golfer interested in playing the game correctly.

Pace of play "is ultimately the player's responsibility." Always plan the next shot while walking or driving to it. A shot routine is good but this "routine should be sufficient with only one practice swing."

Nearest point of relief when a ball comes to rest on a cart path is met with three conditions --- the ball is no longer on the path, the player's stance is not on the path, and the path does not interfere with the intended swing. The ball is dropped no nearer the hole and the club used to measure the drop is the same as the one to make the stroke.

An identifying mark on ball is recommended by two rules of the game. If the wrong ball is played, it means loss of the hole in match play or a two stroke penalty in stroke play.

Play the ball as it lies. To strictly follow the rules of golf a player must not improve his or her lie, or "roll the ball" as it is sometimes called. An exception can be made by a local committee, as has been done at Greendale. The so-called "winter rules" permit that in *fairways only*, when posted at the opening hole. "Summer rules" mean play the ball as it lies at all times, as it done in official

tournaments, such as the club championship.

Dropping a ball properly.

When a ball is to be dropped, such as when it comes to rest in ground under repair, it must be "from shoulder height while the player stands erect."

Pete Bolton aces 14th

Pete Bolton celebrated Independence Day with his first hole-in-one in 55 years of golfing.

He struck his ball with his 7-iron and it flew high like a rocket as he had never seen before. The ball bounced once and dived into the hole. It covered, Pete said, 139 yards.

Cafagna gets award for recycling project

Tom Cafagna, who supervises Greendale's food service, has won an award from Fairfax County, as his trophy says, "In Recognition of Recycling Excellence."

Four categories -- plastics, aluminum cans, cardboard, and used office paper -- are collected in special containers he placed around the premises for use by patrons and employees. Each week Tom personally takes some 15 to 18 55-gallon trash bags of material to recycling collection sites.

In addition, Tom is looking into the feasibility of converting some of the material now being recycled into compost that might be used as fertilizer on the golf course. That, he said, would reduce the amount of material going into landfills.

Tom's award, a self-standing plaque, is made "from 100% recycled glass."

Speed up the pace of play by holing out putts left short.